

This is an official

CDC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network
January 19, 2009, 09:00 AM EST

CDC Investigation: CDC Investigation and Interim Recommendations: Outbreak of *Salmonella* Typhimurium Infections -- United States, 2008-2009

Background information

CDC, in collaboration with public health officials in many states and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is investigating a multistate outbreak of human infections caused by *Salmonella* serotype Typhimurium. As of January 16, 2009, 9PM EST, 474 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Typhimurium have been reported from 43 states. Infection may have contributed to 6 deaths. Of persons for whom data was available, 107 (23%) were hospitalized.

Of the 458 persons with available data, illness onsets were between September 8, 2008 and January 2, 2009. Age range was <1–98 years. A total of 47% of ill persons were females. The most severe illnesses occur among young children, the elderly, and people with impaired immune systems. The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: AL(1), AR(4), AZ(10), CA(60), CO(11), CT(8), GA(6), HI(3), IA(1), ID(11), IL(5), IN(4), KS(2), KY(3), MA(40), MD(8), ME(4), MI(25), MN(35), MO(9), MS(1), NC(4), ND(10), NE(1), NH(11), NJ(19), NV(5), NY(19), OH(64), OK(2), OR(5), PA(14), RI(4), SD(2), TN(9), TX(6), UT(4), VA(20), VT(4), WA(13), WI(3), WV(2), and WY(2).

This outbreak involves a strain of *Salmonella* possessing two closely related pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) patterns (Xbal JPXX01.1818 and JPXX01.0459JPXX01.1825).

The case definition is illness in a person with a *Salmonella* Typhimurium infection with illness onset (or isolation, if onset date unknown) on or after September 1, 2008, and with an isolate matching an outbreak PFGE pattern.

Epidemiologic Investigation

The investigation is ongoing, and exposures to peanut butter and other peanut butter-containing products are being examined.

Following hypothesis generating interviews conducted in December, CDC and state partners conducted a case-control study collecting data on January 3-4, 2009. Preliminary analysis of the case-control study among ill persons in multiple states suggested consumption of peanut butter as a likely source of this outbreak. To date, no association has been found with major national brand name jars of peanut butter sold in grocery stores.

An investigation by the Minnesota State Health Department identified King Nut creamy peanut butter as a source of *Salmonella* infections among many ill persons there. The outbreak strain has been isolated from an opened 5-pound container of King Nut brand peanut butter in Minnesota. *Salmonella* has been isolated from unopened 5-pound containers of King Nut brand peanut butter in Connecticut and Georgia. Further tests are pending to determine if this *Salmonella* is the outbreak strain. This product is distributed to establishments such as long-term care facilities, prisons/detention centers, hospitals, schools, universities, and restaurants. It is not sold directly to consumers and is not known to be distributed for retail sale in grocery stores. King Nut is produced by Peanut Corporation of America in Blakely, Georgia. This facility is now recalling two products it makes: (1) peanut butter (made on or after August 8, 2008) and (2) peanut paste (made on or after September 26, 2008) at the Georgia facility. In many instances,

the peanut butter and peanut paste is further distributed to manufacturers to be used as ingredients in many products, including cookies, crackers, cereal, candy and ice cream.

The list of products that may be affected is still being determined and is incomplete at this time. However, a list of products known to be implicated at this point in the investigation can be found at:

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html#update>. FDA and the product manufacturers are working to determine the list of affected products, which may be extensive. Some companies have already announced whether their products include ingredients being recalled by PCA, Georgia, and more companies are expected to make similar announcements.

CDC with state partners is continuing to identify and interview new cases (ill persons). To clarify the types of peanut-butter containing foods that are associated with the outbreak, CDC is currently conducting a second case-control study. State partners are also collecting and testing various peanut-butter containing foods.

Recommendations

Based on available information, CDC and FDA recommendations include:

For consumers:

- Do not eat products that have been recalled and throw them away in a manner that prevents others from eating them
- Postpone eating other peanut butter containing products (such as cookies, crackers, cereal, candy and ice cream) until information becomes available about whether that product may be affected.

For retailers:

- Stop selling recalled products.

For directors of institutions and food service establishments

- Ensure that they are not serving recalled products.

For manufacturers

- Inform consumers about whether their products could contain peanut paste from Peanut Corporation of America (PCA). If a manufacturer knows their products do not contain peanut paste from PCA, they should inform consumers of that.

To date, no association has been found with major national brand name jars of peanut butter sold in grocery stores.

For More Information

- For the latest information about the epidemiological investigation, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/typhimurium/>.
- For the latest information about recalled products, go to <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html>
More general information about *Salmonella* can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/>

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of outbreaks/clusters of *Salmonella* cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at: http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices – 2009

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

Anderson, Oconee

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-4358
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

Greenville, Pickens

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Region 3

Chester, Lancaster, York

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

Region 3 (continued)

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

Region 4

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 533-7134
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 6

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg

1931 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526-5482
Phone: (843) 915-8804
Fax: (843) 365-0085
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 953-0060
Fax: (843) 953-0051
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper

219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 525-7603, x-108
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control

Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



www.scdhec.gov

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.